

March 23, 2023

Committee Chair Meek, Vice Chair Boquist, and committee members, I am providing written testimony in support of SB 1068

I have reviewed SB 1068 and believe the proposed legislation is needed in rural areas to assure that consistent emergency response services are available and all beneficiaries contribute to the cost of emergency services.

Although I'm offering this testimony on my own behalf, I have served on the Board of Directors for Rural Fire Protection District 10 (rural southeast Multnomah County) for the past 10 years. Through this experience I'm acutely aware of the financial challenges that confront rural fire districts throughout the state. Even though SB 1068 may not directly impact District 10, I can appreciate the difficult logistics of trying to determine which property owners have opted in vs those who have opted out in the face of an emergency much less stretching limited financial resources in a time of increasing wild land fires.

SB 1068 will address this problem. That's why I'm writing to respectfully ask that you support SB 1068 and pass it out of committee and support it on the chamber floor. We should all support our emergency responders who are on the front line of fire, medical, and disaster response and help ensure that everyone getting the services of these responders support the infrastructure to ensure they are available when they are needed.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Charles Ciecko

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